

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1102

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0683

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NO, AO, CU

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICIZES CUBAN INVESTMENT IN ANGOLA,
DISCUSSES RECOGNITION AND AID

REF: (A) 75 OSLO 4968, (B) STOCKHOLM 0644

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND SAID IN STORTING
FEB 4 THAT CUBA'S INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA IS "AN UGLY
EXAMPLE OF INTERVENTION WHICH COULD NOT LEAD TO ANY-
THING GOOD AND WHICH NORWAY MUST DISASSOCIATE ITSELF
FROM. HE REITERATED GOVERNMENT'S POSITION FOR WAITING
UNTIL CONCLUSION OF CIVIL WAR IN ANGOLA BEFORE TAKING
ANY STAND ON RECOGNIZING GOVERNMENT THERE, AND HE SAID
IT WAS FOR STORTING TO DECIDE IF IT WISHED TO STOP AID
TO CUBA.

2. ON RECOGNITION QUESTION, POSED BY LEFTIST SV
LEADER FINN GUSTAVSEN, FRYDENLUND POINTED OUT THAT EFFECTIVE
CONTROL OVER THE COUNTRY WAS A MAJOR CRITERIA FOR
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NORWEGIAN RECOGNITION. IN VIEW OF CONTINUING UNRESOLVED

CIVIL WAR INVOLVING CONTENDING LIBERATION GROUPS AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE, IT WAS NOT THE TIME TO DISCUSS ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPOMATIC RELATIONS, HE SAID.

3. OTHER LEFT ORIENTED GROUPS HAVE BEEN PUSHING FOR GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE MPLA. NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF LABOR PARTY YOUTH ORGANIZATION (AUF) RECENTLY URGED GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE MPLA AS GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA AND TO GIVE ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO IT.

4. ON SAID TO CUBA, WHICH HAS BEEN CRITIZED FROM SEVERAL QUARTERS, FRYDENLUND SAID IT WAS FOR THE STORTING TO DECIDE DURING ITS UPCOMING FOREIGN AID DEBATE WHETHER SUCH ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE STOPPED. WHILE EXPRESSING DISAPPROVAL OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA, HE SAID "IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR NORWAY TO MAKE FOREIGN AID PROGRAMS A MEANS OF APPLYING POLITICAL PRESSURE." HE POINTED OUT THAT NORWAY'S AID TO CUBA IS LIMITED, AND HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO ATTACH IDEALISTIC REQUIREMENTS TO AID PROGRAMS, HE NOTED THAT PUBLIC OPINION RESPONDED NEGATIVELY TO PROVIDING AID TO NATIONS WHICH SENT MILITARY FORCES TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

5. COMMENT: NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT CAN BE EXPECTED TO HOLD FIRM TO ITS POSITION ON RECOGNIZING ANGOLA GOVERNMENT. IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT STORTING WILL PRESS FOR AID TO ANGOLA OR THAT GOVERNMENT WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SUCH AN ACTION. WHILE NORWAY PROVIDED AID TO MPLA AS A LIBERATION MOVEMENT, ALL ASSISTANCE ENDED WITH INDEPENDENCE. VIGOROUS CONSERVATIVE PARTY CRITICISM OF AID TO MPLA AND RECENTLY OF AID TO CUBA HAS FALLEN ON MANY RECEPTIVE EARS HERE. IN ADDITION, LABOR PARTY CHAIRMAN STEEN TOLD DCM AND LABOR ATTACHE RECENTLY THAT AUF DECLARATION ON ANGOLA WOULD HAVE NO IMPACT ON GOVERNMENT'S OR LABOR PARTY'S VIEWS ON THE ISSUE. HE SAID THE ORGANIZATION'S POSITION WAS A YEAR BEHIND EVENTS. HE STATED THE REAL DANGER OF ANGOLAN DEVELOPMENTS WAS THAT THE USSR WOULD CAPTURE

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THE MPLA. CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA HAS RAISED CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM HERE AND HAS GIVEN CONSERVATIVE LEADERS OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK NORWEGIAN AID TO CUBA AS WELL. ASSISTANCE TO CUBA IS MAINLY DIRECTED TO PORT PROJECT IN HAVANA; LAST YEAR IT AMOUNTED TO APPROXIMATELY \$800,000 AND THIS YEAR IT WILL REACH \$2,550,000. PROJECT IS SCHEDULED TO END IN SEVERAL YEARS AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO SUGGESTIONS THAT

ADDITIONAL AID IS BEING CONTEMPLATED.

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